GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3140
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
SPURIOUS DRUGS
P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was recently convened by his Ministry to deal with the menace of spurious drugs in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the persons who had attended the meeting;

(d) the issues discussed in the meeting;

(e) the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the spurious drugs menace?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Union Minister of Health& Family Welfare had invited the representatives of pharmaceutical industry on 27.1.2003 to have a general discussion on the problem of spurious drugs as part of the various measures taken to address this issue and to seek the active participation of the industry to fight the menace of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs.

(c) List of participants who attended the meeting is at Annexure 1.

(d) & (e) The industry representatives expressed their appreciation for the initiatives taken by the Government and assured to extend all necessary cooperation. During the discussion, a need was expressed for improved uniformity in the enforcement strategies adopted by the State Governments and for the adequacy of drug regulatory infrastructure etc. Some industry representatives advocated adoption of packing and labeling techniques which make it more difficult for the antisocial elements to copy. A need for adequate police assistance and speedy trials was also voiced.

(f) Since manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity indulged in by anti-social persons, steps are taken from time to time by enforcement authorities of the States to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs in the interstate commerce. Govt. of India has taken the following steps :

(i) The Drugs Controller General (India) has advised theState Drugs Controllers to take the followingmeasures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs.

(a) Constitution/reactivation of the State Drug Advisory Committee in which various State and industry associations as well consumer associations should find representation.

(b) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance. Training should be provided to selected officials of Drugs Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work, prosecution etc in respect of spurious/counterfeit drugs.

(c) To ensure speedy analysis of drug samples by establishing own state level drug testing facilities.

(d) State Drugs Control Authorities should be cautious while approving licences for drug products to ensure that `look-alike` products are not encouraged.

(e) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

(f) Surveillance of suspected dealers.

(g) Engaging experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases

(h) Cooperation of pharmaceutical industry by regular interaction with them.

(i) Collection of survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drugs (NSQED) Programme.

(ii) The Union Minster of Health & Family Welfarehad written on Oct 2002 to all the Chief Ministers seeking their personal intervention to ensure that adequate measures are taken in each State to deal with this problem. Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare also convened a meeting of the Health Ministers and senior officials of 13 major States of the country on 12.11.2002 to discuss measures to ensure consorted action required to check movement of spurious drugs in the country and to involve all stakeholders, including pharma industry, to curb the menace of manufacture and marketing of spurious/fake medicines.

(iii) Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of DGHS toexamine the extent of problem and suggest remedial measures. Committee report has been submitted along with its recommendation in July 2002. A copy of the report of the committee constituted by the Government of India to examine the issues concerning availability of spurious drugs in the market and measures recommended there of have been sent to all the State Drugs Controllers for their implementation.

(iv) Government of India has set up an expert committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashalkar, DG, CSIR, Secy to Govt. of India to lookinto various issues related to Drugs Control administration including the matter o f effectively tackling the problem of spurious drugs.

(v) Central Government have taken steps to augment the drugstesting facilities o f State laboratories. Strengthening information system through computer networking is also under implementation.

Annexure I

List of Participants who attended the meeting conducted by Union Minister of Health on 27th January, 2003 in the Committee Room No. 249-A, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi, regarding Spurious Drug.

Sl. No.	Name	Organization
1.	Secretary (Health)	Ministry of Health & F.W.
2.	DGHS	Ministry of Health & F.W.
3.	Deepak Gupta, JS	Ministry of Health & F.W.
4.	Ashwini Kumar, Drugs Controller General & F.W. (India)	Ministry of Health
5.	Dr. S.R. Gupta, JDC(I)	Ministry of Health & F.W.
6.	J. S. C haudhary, Dy. Secretary	Dte. GHS
7	Y.R. Majundar	President, IDMA
8.	Dr. Ajit Dangi	President, OPPI
9.	Z.H. Charna	OPPI
10.	Dr. Vinay Nayak	Cipla
11.	Rajesh Jain	Panacea Biotec
12.	K. Shiv Kumar	GSK
13.	Hirindetr S. Sikka	Nicolas & Piramal
14.	R. Bala	Torrent Pharma
15.	Ramesh Subrahmanian	Aventis Pharma
16.	Vijay Karan	Ex-Director, CBI
17.	Sanjiv D. Kaul	Ranbaxy
18.	Dr. Adeep Bagati	Ranbaxy
19.	Ajay Sahni	Wockhardt Ltd.
20.	R.J. Khanna	Wockhardt Ltd.
21.	V.K. Chandrasekhan	Dr. Reddy` Lab.
22.	Arvind Vasudeva	Dr. Reddy`s Lab.
23.	N. S Yadav	Dr. Reddy`s Lab.
24.	A.S. Krishna	Pfizer Ltd.
25.	S.P. Sharma	Bayer
26.	R. Aggarwal	Bayer

27.	T.R. Grover	Glenmark Pharma
28.	S.B. Lal	Themis Medicare Ltd.
29.	Dr. Archna Ray	Sun Pharma
30.	P.H. Shroff	Expert
31.	Ulhas A.H. Joshi	Gujarat Glass (Piramal Group)
32.	Ankur Agarwal	Gujarat Glass Pvt. Ltd.
33.	S. Ramesh	Associated Capsules Group
34.	Ajit Singh, President	President, Associated Capsules Group
35.	Ashok Narain	Director (PR) PIB
36.	Brijesh Regal	WHO Consultant to DCG(I)
37.	G. Wakanker	IDMA
38.	S.K. Arya	IDMA
39.	N.R. Munjol	IDMA

IDMA - Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association.
IPA - Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance
OPPI - Organisation of Pharmaceuticals Producers of India.